AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] A recombinant clone carrying the *M. smegmatis ddl* gene was identified from a genomic library by colony hybridization using a species-specific probe. An internal fragment of the *M. smegmatis ddl* gene was amplified by PCR using a pair of degenerate primers, DDLF and DDLR, based on two signature peptides of bacterial Ddl enzymes (Dutka-Malen et al., 1992). This amplified fragment was verified and radiolabeled with the Rediprime II labeling system (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, N.J.). For screening the library, about 10,000 colonies from the library pool were plated, transferred to the NYTRAN nylon membrane (Midwest Scientific, Valley Park, Mo.), and screened with the labeled probe as described previously (Sambrook et al., 1989). After three rounds of screening, the recombinant plasmid pBUN172 was identified and confirmed to contain the full-length *ddl* gene. This sequence is identical to the sequence at GenBank with accession no. AF077728 (Belanger et al., 2000) and the sequence from the unfinished *M. smegmatis* mc^2155 genome ~~(http:www.tigr.org)~~ [(J. Craig Center Institute)].

Please delete paragraph [0094].